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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/851,640	05/08/2001	Neil Lataarche	VRTY-001/00US	3606

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EXAMINER

THAI, HANH B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/851,640

Applicant(s)

LATARCHE ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh B Thai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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This is in response to the application filed May 8, 2001 in which claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Furegati et al. (U. S. Patent no. 5,966,704).

Regarding claims 1 and 14, Furegati discloses a method of parametric group processing, comprising:

- forming a parametric index (parametric index 25, Fig.4A, Furegati) from an indexed database (see col. 7, lines 26-33, Furegati). “Data container” (40, Fig.4A) corresponds to “index database”;
- specifying a first parametric group and a second parametric group corresponding to elements in said parametric index (see col.7, lines 28-33, Furegati). “Contextual index elements” and “signal index elements” correspond to a “first parametric group” and “second parametric group” respectively;
- merging said first parametric group and the second parametric group to produce a merged parametric group (see col.7, lines 33-37 and col. 7, line 63 to col. 8,

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- line 8, Furegati). “Contextual index elements”, “signal index elements” and “Storage segment” (40, Fig. 4A) correspond to a “first parametric group”, “second parametric group” and “merged parametric group”; and
- extracting a parametric result from said merged parametric group, wherein the parametric result specifies a set of documents (see col. 10, lines 20-24, Furegati). The “hit list” is the result that is extracting from searching and retrieving the information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, lines 15, Furegati).

Regarding claims 2 and 15, Furegati further discloses the step of listing a parametric group (see col. 10, lines 20-24, Furegati).

Regarding claims 3 and 16, Furegati further discloses the step of deriving a parametric group from text search results (see col. 6, lines 43-46).

Regarding claims 4 and 17, Furegati further discloses the step of mapping the text search results into the parametric index to identify a parametric group (see col. 7, lines 26-33, Furegati).

Regarding claim 5, Furegati further discloses the step of assigning every element in a bucket array to distinct bucket set parents to produce a structured bucket array (see col. 7, lines 49-62, Furegati). The rows and columns of table (47, Fig. 4B, Furegati) made up an array of elements in an information unit.

Regarding claim 6, Furegati further discloses the step of taking the cross of all elements in said structured bucket array to produce a parametric group (see col. 7, lines 56-62, Furegati).

Regarding claims 7, 11 and 18, Furegati further discloses the step taking the union of said first parametric group and said second parametric group to produce said merged parametric group (see col. 7, line 63 to col. 8, line 5, Furegati).

Regarding claims 8, 12 and 19, Furegati further discloses the step of collecting document identifications for said merged parametric group (see col. 7, lines 52-62 and col. 10, lines 20-24, Furegati). The “hit list” is the result that is extracting from storing, searching and retrieving the information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, lines 15, Furegati). The “index reference” corresponds to “document identification”.

Regarding claims 9, 13 and 20, Furegati further discloses the step of forming the union of said document identifications to produce said parametric result (see col. 7, lines 1-15, Furegati).

Regarding claim 10, Furegati discloses a method of parametric group processing, comprising:

- performing a text search to produce text search results (see col.3, line 65 to col.4, line 4 and lines 8-15, Furegati);

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- mapping said text search results into a parametric index to identify a first parametric group (see col.7, lines 26-33 and Fig.4B, Furegati);”contextual” and “contextual index subsection” corresponds to “text” and “parametric index”, and the “contextual” search results that is mapping into “contextual index subsection”
- merging said first parametric group with a second parametric group to produce a merged parametric group(see col.7, lines 33-37 and col. 7, line 63 to col. 8, line 8, Furegati). “Contextual index elements”, “signal index elements” and “Storage segment” (40, Fig.4A) correspond to a “first parametric group”, “second parametric group” and “merged parametric group”; and
- extracting a parametric result from said merged parametric group, wherein said
- parametric result specifies a set of documents (see col. 10, lines 20-24, Furegati). The “hit list” is the result that is extracting from searching and retrieving the information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, lines 15, Furegati).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B Thai whose telephone number is 703-305-4883. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-9099 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Hanh Thai *HT*
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July 25, 2003

Frantz Coby
FRANTZ COBY
PRIMARY EXAMINER